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DINGLEYISM AND THE CONSTITUTION.

The Constitution of the United States says: Section 8-1. The Congress shall have power to lay and collect taxes, duties, imposts and excises, to pay the debts and provide for the common defense and general welfare of the United States.

In the debate on the Dingley bill, several Democratic Congressmen, notably Mr. Gaines, of Tennessee, contended that the Dingley bill, if passed as it now reads, would be unconstitutional because in its title it declares that its objects are "to provide revenue for the government and to encourage the industries of the United States."

The constitutional question raised is this: Is the phrase of the Constitution "to provide for the general welfare" capable of a construction loose enough to include the right to lay taxes "to encourage the industries of the United States?"

Can the Republican contention that prohibitive duties on certain articles, giving encouragement to certain industries, promotes "the general welfare" be sustained if it is frankly and specifically embodied in the phraseology of the law?

Among the many authorities quoted by Mr. Gaines in support of his position was the supreme court of the United States, which said (20 Wallace, 693):

"To lay with one hand the power of the government on the property of the citizens and with the other to bestow it upon favored individuals to aid private enterprises and build up private fortunes is none the less a robbery because it is done under the process of law and a scaled taxation."

The questionable phrase in the title to the Dingley bill was never used before in a tariff bill. It is useless, boastful, pretentious and absurd. Is it not possible that if the Republicans persist in keeping it in the bill they may bitterly regret their cheap and foolish attempt to make political capital?

New York World.

THE RESULT IN CANTON.

The result of the election in Canton on the 8th inst shows a great victory. The Democrats have the mayor, solicitor, water works trustee, the three members of the board of education, six of the seven members of council and five of the seven ward assessors by decided majorities.

The Republicans re-elect their marshal, street commissioner, market master, one member of council and two assessors, thus giving the Democrats 14 to the Republicans six in the city.

In the township the Republicans get one of the two assessors and the Democrats get the rest, being the township trustee, treasurer and the two constables, being five to one. This is decidedly an encouraging victory and shows that by united action and good work the county may be redeemed in the fall. Let things be put in shape thereto.

Daniel W. Voorhees, of Indiana, died on Saturday in Washington. He had been ill for a year or more. He was first elected to Congress in 1860, and after 12 years' service there was sent to the Senate. His term expired on the 4th of last month. Mr. Voorhees was an able lawyer and a gifted orator. He has spoken in Stark county several times at large Democratic gatherings. His age was 76.

All admit that for the last few years this country has been enduring a very low average of prosperity, and there is no evidence as yet of improvement. Indeed during 1896 times were rather worse than before. A change for the

better was promised and expected by many after that November election if McKinley were elected; but instead of improvement thereafter business generally was even more reduced as was evidenced by numerous bank and other failures, and by the interest rates for money in New York getting as low as 1 1/2 and 2 per cent.

Different have been business conditions in Great Britain, for the past year was one of unusual prosperity. This is proven by the fact that money has been in demand so that the New York banks have loaned millions of dollars to European bankers, getting better interest rates than here at home. All this shows better business conditions abroad. Previously in this country hard times were the result of panics, over speculation in some way, bad crops, etc. But the present status seems to be chronic and shows that the cause or causes must have been and still are in operation, and from all that this administration and its Congress are doing no remedy will be forthcoming. They want more revenue and hence increased taxation. They propose no other cure, and this cure is like curing the itch by scratching the skin off.

Republican policy has given this country over to the grasping money mongers, and their party is yet in power and their grasp is that of death. When did usury ever elasp but to kill? With the usury that prevails in this land how can business improve? This usury with the policy of the gold standard causing decline in the prices of commodities and so giving greater purchasing power to the dollar and thus making more and more valuable bonds, mortgages and all fixed indebtedness, has been crushing the American people. It seems to be the design of those in power to continue this evil policy. The people themselves must see to this all important work.

OUR LIBEL LAWS.

The libel laws in Ohio, as in most or all the States, are behind the age and should be modified to suit or conform to present conditions. A singular libel case was on trial in our court room No. 2 this week before Judge Taylor, the parties being Tyndale Palmer against the Repository Printing Co., the damages claimed being \$50,000.

The history of the case, having been given in yesterday's News-Democrat, need not be repeated here. The purpose of this article is to urge a change in our libel laws. No doubt the jury under the circumstances would have brought in a verdict for the defendant if the law would have permitted. Under the law the court directed the jury to bring in a verdict in favor of the plaintiff in some amount, and so they brought in a verdict for \$1.50 instead of \$50,000.

The fact is our laws should be so changed that no such suit could be brought. The so-called libel was a telegraphic dispatch sent to dailies generally and published over the country as news. The Repository, when advised of its incorrectness, offered to retract, but this was refused, and so the Repository company, entirely innocent of any intention of wrong or of malice and even refused the chance to correct, has been subjected to the trouble and serious expense of a lawsuit.

This man Palmer, a citizen of New York, unknown hereabouts, and with no business in this section in which he could be injured by the publication in question, in any amount, and yet, as we say, under our laws the Repository must be put to a heavy expense. We hope the next general assembly of Ohio will change our libel laws to suit present conditions and prevent suits like this that really amount to persecution.

No newspaper man, who understands his business, wants to libel any one, and certainly would have no object in maligning a stranger as was Mr. Tyndale Palmer. The fact is that, under our present statutes, no newspaper is safe. The press should unite and see to it that the libel laws are modified the country over.

The question is being talked of occasionally these days as to the mode which the Democratic nominations should be made for the fall campaign. Last year our friends may remember the nomination

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tions were made in a delegate convention—these delegates appointed by the committeeman of each precinct. There was much dissatisfaction at this assumption of power on the part of the committee, and the convention, after nominating the ticket, adopted a resolution by a unanimous vote that thereafter tickets should be nominated by popular vote. This should settle the question as to the manner of making our nominations for next fall. It was in accordance with the resolution referred to that the ticket in Canton was made this spring on the popular vote plan. It worked satisfactorily and no doubt will work well and acceptably for the fall. It is altogether best to have the people do their own business. The people who are expected to elect the ticket should certainly have a voice in making it. If not, why not?

Scientists declare that the increasing floods in the Mississippi are the result of denuding the mountains and hills at the sources of the great river and its branches of the forests, which are nature's clothing that prevented the rapid melting of the snows and so retarded the precipitation of great volumes of water. There is probably something in this idea. It will be difficult to restore those forests and reclothe the hillsides with timber.

A tariff is a tax and the consumer has to pay and the man who consumes most of the tariffed articles pays the highest tax.

"Taxation is in its last analysis is confiscation by the government of the property of the citizen for public purposes. Protection is authority indirectly conferred upon certain business men to confiscate the property of their patrons."

Taxation is a necessary burden; Protection is an ingenious robbery.

The Dingley tariff bill, as it passed the house with the retroactive clause, declares goods imported after April 1st to be dutiable under the new bill, this of course before it is a law. This is simply high-handed despotism, without reason or right. This Reed-Dingley, (both of Maine) bill directs the secretary of the treasury to require customs officers to collect duties under an act not yet approved by the Senate and President, and to disobey a law not yet repealed. What an absurdity and burlesque on propriety and legality. What sort of hoodlum Statesmen are these Republicans of the house?

During the four years past the courts have appointed receivers for 177 railroad companies, operating 45,895 miles of road, or nearly one-third the total mileage of the country, and representing \$2,825,507,000 of stocks and bonds. The railroad foreclosures of the past three years cover 132 roads, operating 10,847 miles of road, with \$2,231,167,000 of stocks and bonds. The railroads defaulting in 1896 exceeded in amount the entire commercial and bank failures of the country put together. Railroads, like the rest of mankind generally in this country, are in bondage at a high rate of interest. Usury there is much the trouble as it is everywhere in this land.

It appears to be exceedingly probable that the Democrats of Ohio will this year nominate for governor Allen W. Thurman, of Columbus, a noted free coinage leader of the State. It is equally probable they will support John R. McKim, of Cincinnati, for the United States Senate against Mark Hanna, who is the assured Republican candidate. Thurman and McKim would make a strong team pulling together. The traditions are with them. Their fathers were leaders of the party in the great battles of the past. Since the 4th of March for the first time in 28 years the State of Ohio is without Democratic representation in the United States Senate. The long period of divided representation began in 1869 with the election of Allen G. Thurman as the colleague of John Sherman. Once only has the rule of divided representation been broken, and that was in the Forty-sixth Congress, when George H. Pendleton was the colleague of Senator Thurman. Never once in the 28 years did two Republicans sit together in the Senate from Ohio. The old condition will be restored when Mark Hanna is retired next winter.—Pittsburg Post.

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LIKE THE COMMISSION.

Men of All Parties Commend McKinley's Choice.

STEVENSON ESPECIALLY PLEASING.

The President Wanted the Question Raised Above Politics—The Ex-Vice President Feels Greatly Honored—Senator Wolcott Expects Much Good.

WASHINGTON, April 14.—The naming of three commissioners by President McKinley under the act of the last congress to promote bimetalism was the subject of considerable discussion about the capital. Almost without exception the selections were commended. Senators, regardless of party, were pleased with the selection of ex-Vice President Stevenson. It appears that this selection was the president's own, no one appearing to urge his appointment.

The president desired a Democrat who stood high in his party and who was an earnest silver man. He sent for Mr. Stevenson and, after talking the subject over with him, decided to make him a member of the commission. President McKinley desired that the subject of international bimetalism should be lifted above party politics and that the men selected should be those who would work in harmony toward bringing about an agreement. It was also believed by the president that the name of Mr. Stevenson would give the commission great weight abroad.

Among the earnest advocates of the selection of Mr. Payne were Senators Hoar, Allison and Chandler, all of whom talked with the president on the subject and recommended him as a man who would materially aid the cause of bimetalism.

Senator Wolcott is very hopeful of success. He looks forward to hard work, but says from what he learned while abroad last year he is almost sanguine of results. Senator Wolcott believes in the selection of the commission, especially in naming Mr. Stevenson, a silver man and one who supported Mr. Bryan. President McKinley has convinced everybody that he is an earnest bimetalist. Bimetalism at home and abroad, he says, will be promoted by this selection.

Opposition to the scheme for international bimetalism has developed from an unexpected source. Morton Frewen of England, who has given a great deal of attention to the subject and who has visited this country several times in the interest of silver, is now opposing an international agreement and declares that the money question is one which one nation must settle for itself. Mr. Frewen will oppose any agreement and use his influence against the new commission when it goes abroad.

Senator Wolcott said that the gold standard countries would oppose any further depreciation of silver and that efforts were now being made to prevent any further fall of silver in India, also that the demand for gold by Japan in establishing a gold standard would cause a drain of gold from Europe, which would be resisted by gold countries. In the United States Senator Wolcott anticipates little opposition to bimetalism. What opposition Mr. Wolcott says there is comes from the German bankers of New York who are already fighting bimetalism and whose opposition the commission will meet when it goes to Europe.

BLOOMINGTON, Ills., April 14.—Ex-Vice President Stevenson said, when questioned about his appointment on the commission for the promotion of an international agreement: "I appreciate the compliment paid to me by the president and will cheerfully render what assistance I can to accomplish the object of the commission."

"I am a bimetalist. I regard the restoration of silver to its proper money function as the supreme question in our own country and throughout the world. The importance of the question cannot be overestimated. In this country the increase in the volume of business is beyond computation. In the light of these facts the rehabilitation of silver is a prime necessity. Should its demotion become the policy of the government, the evil days upon which we have fallen but dimly foreshadow consequences yet to come."

"Whatever our views may be as to the ability of our government to maintain the free and unlimited coinage of silver without the co-operation of the leading countries of Europe it may be safely assumed that every friend of silver in our country will welcome international bimetalism."

"As to the possibility of success of this commission, it is known that the trend of public sentiment in European countries, as well as our own, is undoubtedly favorable to bimetalism. Many of the publicists of England and Germany are in earnest accord with our government upon this question. Should public sentiment in those countries justify an international conference, would undoubtedly be called and action taken that would be deemed proper."

SEWALL IN THE WEST.

His Views on the Recent Election Results.

SAN FRANCISCO, April 14.—Arthur Sewall, the Democratic candidate for vice president in the last campaign, has arrived from the east via the Isthmus of Panama. Mr. Sewall has been on the way for the past 30 days, and consequently is not familiar with the political happenings of that period. He said:

"I place no special significance upon the recent Democratic success in eastern cities. They were purely the result of local influence. The people of the east are inclined to give President McKinley and his administration a fair trial. Business is very much depressed there, and should it not improve I think the Democrats will present the same silver issue four years hence, and I have no doubt they will be successful. Of course everything will depend upon the financial condition of the country during the year. The people have been promised better times, and if they do not get them they will again demand a change of administration."

A Double Murderer Hung.

JERSEY CITY, April 14.—John Mackin, Jr., has been hanged here. Mackin killed his wife and her mother, Mrs. Bridget Connors, Feb. 27, 1896.

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